picture tubes to M/s APEDC and/ of M/s Videocon. The Government of Andhra Pradesh and M/s APEDC have no objection to the consideration of application of M/s Videocon for the grant of licence for the manufacture of Colour Picture Tubes in collaboration with M|s Philips, Holland provided M|s Videocon set up the plant in the State of Andhra Pradesh. M|s Videocon has confirmed the location of their plant for manufacture of Colour Picture Tubes in the State of Andhra Pradesh. However, the proposal of M|s Videocon is under consideration of the Government of India.

**Amount assessed against drug companies**

*87. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the tentative total amount assessed against drug companies upto 30th June, 1991;

(b) what amount has been recovered up to 30th June, 1991;

(c) whether it is a fact that his Ministry have still to assess the liabilities upto the due period in respect of a number of drug companies; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and by when the complete assessment would be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The tentative assessments made upto 30-6-91 aggregate to about Rs. 226 crores.

(b) Rs. 16.11 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The process of assessment is in progress.

**Price rise in essential commodities**

*88. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the monthwise rise in the prices of essential commodities during the last six months; what measures are being taken to control the prices and with what results; and

(b) what measures are being taken to redesign the Public Distribution System to help the weaker sections of the society particularly the rural poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) A statement showing the monthwise percentage variation in the Wholesale Price Indiaces of essential commodities from January 1991 to June 1991 is enclosed. (*See* Appendix 159 Annexure No. 12).

Government attaches the highest priority to containing inflation and would adopt necessary measures towards this end. Efforts would also be made to restrain growth in money supply, effect economy in Government expenditure, encourage small savings, ensure better supply and demand management of "sensitive commodities", strict action against hoarders and profiteers and provision of incentives for higher production in the medium term. A Cabinet Committee on Prices has been set up on 13.7 1991 under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister to monitor the prices of essential commodities and to ensure their supply. These measures are expected to have desirable effect on rising trends of prices.

(b) The Public Distribution System is being re-designed to cater particularly to the weaker sections